

a) *Talking about future actions*

We use both **will** and **going to** to talk about our future actions but there is a clear difference. Study this example situation:

Helen's bicycle has a flat tyre. She tells her father.	will: We use will when we decide to do something at the time of speaking. The speaker has not decided before. Before Helen told her father, he didn't know about the flat tyre.
Helen: My bicycle has a flat tyre. Can you repair it for me?	
Father: Okay, but I can't do it now. I'll repair it tomorrow.	
Later, Helen's mother speaks to her husband.	going to: We use going to when we have already decided to do something. Helen's father had already decided to repair the bicycle before his wife spoke to him.
Mother: Can you repair Helen's bicycle? It has a flat tyre.	
Father: Yes, I know. She told me. I'm going to repair it tomorrow.	

1 Future: contrast between *will* and *going to* statements

- A I'm going to Stevenage tomorrow.
B Why? Surely there's more business in Luton?
A OK I'll go to Luton instead.

Task 1 Construct similar dialogues using the following:

Example: John wants to play bridge with his friends. His wife also wants to go out.
John agrees to stay in and look after the children.

JOHN I'm going to play bridge this evening with my friends.

WIFE But I want to go out tonight as well.

JOHN OK I'll stay in and look after the children.

- 1 Joe has decided to take Anna to the theatre. She wants to stay in and watch TV. Joe agrees.

- 2 Anna has made a resolution to try and lose weight. Her mother thinks that she is already too thin. Anna agrees not to go on a diet. (Use *won't*.)
3 Joe has accepted an invitation to give a lecture on phonetics. The Head of the College does not like the subject. Joe undertakes to talk about grammar instead.
4 John has decided to vote Conservative in the next election. His wife tells him that the Conservative candidate is no good, so John then agrees to vote Labour.
5 Anna is thinking of buying a car. Her father points out that a bicycle is both cheaper and healthier. Anna agrees.